

GRAUSTARK

#253

1970BB, 1970BN, 1971BG

4 December 1971

1970BB

"Fall 1912"

1971BG

"Fall 1901"

"THE BEST DEFENSE IS TO ATTACK"

Following the "Spring 1912" moves, France retreated F Mid-Bre.

ENGLAND (Lasky): F Edi holds; F Liverpool holds.

FRANCE (Mischel): F Nat-Mid; F Bre S F Nat-Mid; A Mun holds; A Bur-Mar; A Spa S A Bur-Mar.

GERMANY (Isby): A Ber & A Kie S FRENCH A Min.

ITALY (Comber): F Mid-Spa(n.c.); F Por S F Mid-Spa(n.c.); A Mar S F Mid-Spa(n.c.); F Naf S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN F Wes-Mid; A Pie S A Mar; A Ven holds.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Nierenberg): A Boh-Mun; A Tyr S A Boh-Mun; A Tri S A Tyr; A War-Pru; A Sil S A War-Pru; A Gal-War; A Ukr S A Gal-War; A Mos-Liv; F Iri-Eng; F Wes-Mid; F Tun holds; F Apu-Ion; F Adr-Alb.

RUSSIA (Shuldiner): F Yor-Edi; F Nth S F Yor-Edi; F Eng S FRENCH F Bre-Mid; A St.P S A Liv; A Liv S A St.P; A Pru S A Liv.

Underlined moves are not possible. England's F Edi is dislodged and may retreat; this retreat must be submitted to the Gamesmaster immediately. France's A Spa is dislodged and retreats to Gae, unless the Gamesmaster is informed to the contrary immediately. The Russian A Pru is annihilated. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi. (1)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Lon, Mun, Par. (5)

GERMANY: Ber, Kie. (2)

ITALY: Mar, Nap, Por, Rom, Spa, Ven. (6)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Ank, Bud, Bul, Con, Gre, Mos, Rum, Ser, Sev, Smy, Tri, Tun, Vie, War. (14)

RUSSIA: Den, Edi, Hol, Nwy, St.P, Swe. (6)
Austria-Hungary may build one new unit while England must remove one unit. Russia is entitled to an additional unit, but since no

(continued on p. 3)

ALL NEUTRAL COUNTRIES OCCUPIED

Following the "Spring 1901" moves, Larry Peery and Burton Labelle resigned as France and Italy respectively. The new players are:

FRANCE: Howard Latin, #B, 1942 Russell St., Berkeley, Calif. 94703

ITALY: Brian Burley, 38 N. Main St., Hackensack, N. J. 07840

ENGLAND (Hodin): F Nth-Ska; A Edi-Nwy; F Nrg C A Edi-Nwy.

FRANCE (Latin): A Bur-Bel; A Spa-Por; F Mid-Spa(s.c.).

GERMANY (Schleicher): F Den S RUSSIAN F Bot-Swe; A Ruh-Hol; A Mun-Ruh.

ITALY (Burley): F Ion-Tun; A Ven-Tyr; A Rom-Tus.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Berman): F Alb-Gre; A Vie-Tri; A Ser-Rum.

RUSSIA (Phillips): F Bot-Swe; A Ukr-Rum; F Sev S A Ukr-Rum; A War-Gal.

TURKEY (Nierenberg): A Bul S AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN A Bud-Rum; A Con-Smy; F Ank-Con.

Underlined moves are not possible. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon, Nwy. (4)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa. (6)

GERMANY: Ber, Den, Hol, Kie, Mun. (5)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun, Ven. (4)

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Bud, Gre, Ser, Tri, Vie. (5)

RUSSIA: Mos, Rum, Sev, St.P, Swe, War. (6)

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Smy. (4)

England, Italy, and Turkey may each build 1 new unit. Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Russia may each build 2 new units, and France may build 3. These "Winter 1901" adjustments are due immediately, and will be mailed out to the players by the Gamesmaster. The deadline for "Spring 1902" moves is 6 PM MONDAY 27 DECEMBER 1971.

"WHAT THE HELL ARE WE FIGHTING FOR, PARLEY-VOO..."

In GRAUSTARK #251, David Isby commented on the new Avalon-Hill game, "The Origins of World War II". This game has attracted many Diplomacy fans, and it now has its first fanzine.

Anschluss is published twice a month by Joseph O. Antosiak, 3637 Arden Ave., Brookfield Ill. 60513. The game fee, which includes a subscription, is \$3; non-players' subscriptions are \$1 for 12 issues. Games are now being organized, and a variant game is under consideration. The editor will also trade with other war-gaming publications. Rule modifications for postal play are announced in Anschluss #1.

1970BN

"Fall 1908"

WESTERN DEFENSES STILL HOLD

ST. PETERSBURG (6 Oct. 1908): The key, the key, my kingdom for the key, said Vladimir. That rogue Tapscott must be found!

ISSHEMAL*KEP (Rouch): THE Sultan of all the Kurrbanga Mountains today declared that the Birds that have attacking the city are Tarus from outerspace, anotherplant call Gor. 'Reports have it that the Birds sure make a gorey mess out of the men on their backs.

ISSHEMAL*KEP (Rouch): The Tharns have attacked the city and are after the Sultan, could it be the sunban lotion he is wearing?

ASSHEALA (Rouch): Lorrie Lowly to annouced that all WLW (Warm Loving Wives are practicing the new Body Language of Turkey. 'It seems to be the best way to do it! Lorrie was quoted as saying.

ISSMEAL-GAKA (Rouch): There was a new book put out today by a high official. The book is entitled "Everything you wanted to know about Body talk but were afraid to Ask" Asked about his book the official said 'Mums the word

HYUNDERABAD (Rouch): Today Pandit the Bandit made it far the first time inside the walls of ISSHEMAL*KEP. "I'll come again" He shouted As he Left.

(More press releases are on p. 4)

Following "Spring 1908" moves Italy retreated F Ion-Tyr.

In GRAUSTARK #252, the Russian move "A Nwy-Swe" was incorrectly printed as "A Nwy-Tyr". All players were informed of this error.

ENGLAND (H. Anderson): F Nwy holds; F Nwg S F Nwy; F Ska-Swe; F Nth-Den; F Hel S F Nth-Den.

FRANCE (Nierenberg): A Bur-Mar; A Gas & F Spa(s.c.) S A Bur-Mar; A Pic-Bel; A Ruh-Hol.

ITALY (Model): A Tus-Rom; F Nap-Rom; F Tyr-Tun.

RUSSIA (Buchanan): F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Bar S F St.P(n.c.)-Nwy; F Bal S F Den; A Kie S A Hol-Ruh; F Den S A Kie; A Pru-Ber; A Boh S A Mun; F Sev holds; F Aeg S TURKISH F Eas-Ion; A Swe S F Den; A Hol-Ruh; A Mar-Bur; A Mun S A Mar-Bur.

TURKEY (Barents): A Ven-Tus; A Pie S A Ven-Tus; A Tri-Ven; F Ion-Tun; F Eas-Ion; F Apu-Nap; F Gre S F Eas-Ion; F Adr-Tri.

Underlined moves are not possible. Russia's A Mar and Italy's A Tus are annihilated, and France retreats A Ruh-Bur. The High Combatant Powers now control the following supply centers:

ENGLAND: Edi, Liv, Lon. (3)

FRANCE: Bel, Bre, Mar, Par, Por, Spa.

(6)

ITALY: Nap, Rom, Tun. (3)

RUSSIA: Ber, Bud, Den, Hol, Kie, Mos, Mun, Nwy, Rum, St.P, Sev, Swe, Vle, War. (14).

TURKEY: Ank, Bul, Con, Gre, Ser, Smy, Tri, Ven. (8)

Russia may build 2 new units, and Italy and France may each build 1. England must remove 2 units. The deadline for these "Winter 1908" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 18 DECEMBER 1971.

NEW GAMES BEGIN!

The opening of new games was announced in the last issue of GRAUSTARK. Since then, more than enough entries to fill two new games have come in. The first two of these games are temporarily assigned the designations "G-I" and "G-II" until Rod Walker assigns them game numbers. Please use these designations when submitting your moves.

G-I

ENGLAND: Edi Birsan, 48-20 39th St., Long Island City, N. Y. 11104; 212-784-1812
 FRANCE: Ted Holcombe, Apt. 38, 10012 Valley Blvd., El Monte, Calif. 91731
 GERMANY: George Grayson, 1674 Chapin Ave., Merrick, N. Y. 11566; 516-546-1877 or -1878
 ITALY: Steven Brooks, Apt. 84, 3601 E. 2nd St., Tucson, Ariz. 85716
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: William Drakert, 159 Chelsea Rd., White Plains, N. Y. 10603
 RUSSIA: Perry Silverman, 17 Aberdeen St., Boston, Mass. 02215
 TURKEY: Bill Hawley, 21306 Kenyon Drive, Maple Heights, Ohio 44137

G - II

ENGLAND: Robert Bryan Lipton, 556 Green Place, Woodmere, N. Y. 11598
 FRANCE: George Grayson, 1674 Chapin Ave., Merrick, N. Y. 11566; 516-546-1877 or -1878
 GERMANY: Donald Berman, 22 Mabaline Rd., Old Bridge, N. J. 08857; 201-674-4614
 ITALY: Gregory A. Warden, 179 Aquetong Road, New Hope, Penn. 18938
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY: Donald Fox, 315 Alewife Brook Parkway, Somerville, Mass. 02144
 RUSSIA: Herb Barents, 157 State St., Zeeland, Mich. 49464
 TURKEY: Michael Willner, 3099 Brighton 6th St., Brooklyn, N. Y. 11235; 212-SH 3-7379

Telephone numbers are given where known. Other players are asked to send in their phone numbers also. The Gamesmaster's number is 212-OX 3-1579.

The deadline for "Spring 1901" moves is SATURDAY 1 JANUARY 1972 at NOON. This provides four weeks for opening negotiations. Players should note that the deadline date is a holiday without mail delivery. Please see the directions in GRAUSTARK #252 for sending in moves. Press releases are solicited and encouraged.

Additional game registrations are still coming in, and more games are still open. The entry fee is \$6.00. A player may register as a stand-by for \$3.00; see #252 for details.

1970BB (continued from p. 1)

home supply center is vacant, Russia cannot build. "Winter 1912" adjustments are due immediately and may be made conditional upon the direction of the retreats. The deadline for "Spring 1913" moves is 6 PM, MONDAY 13 DECEMBER 1971.

PARIS (18 Sept. 1912): Where a French soldier sets foot...

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

John Beshara, Gamesmaster of 1971BG and 1970BB, announces that effective herewith, the abbreviations recommended in the new Rulebook and noted on p. 5 of GRAUSTARK #252 are used.

*

George Grayson, who will be host of a Diplomacy game at his home on Sunday 19 December, informs Diplomacy fans that he will meet the east-bound L. I. R. R. train which will arrive in Merrick at 12:15 PM. This train, pulling one of the neatest tricks of the year, will leave both Pennsylvania Station and Brooklyn's Atlantic Avenue Station at 11:40 AM.

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Since pp. 6-7 were put on stencil, all addresses having to do with the California branch of the Society for Creative Anachronism have apparently become inactive. At present interested persons living on the west coast will have to do their anachronizing at long distance through the more active east coast and midwestern organizations. If the California SCA is ever reactivated, GRAUSTARK readers will be informed.

ACCOUNT OF THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD GAME AT JOHN BOARDMAN'S HOUSE, 21 NOVEMBER 1971

by Robert Bryan Lipton

GAMESMASTER - John Beshara
 ENGLAND - Peter Comber (?)
 FRANCE - Brian Burley
 GERMANY - Robert Bryan Lipton

ITALY - George Grayson
 AUSTRIA-HUNGARY - Michael Willner
 RUSSIA - Vincent Livermore
 TURKEY - Edi Birsan

The diplomatic negotiations began with a tentative treaty with Austria-Hungary and Italy, and Russia had made a few non-invasion pacts, very indiscriminately, I might add. The Northern Powers remained basically unattached. As the game commenced, Austria-Hungary was double-betrayed, and was off the board by Fall 1902. Turkey, Italy, and Russia carved up Austria-Hungary.

In the North, France was triple-disappointed. Quoth he, "England swings; he made alliances with everybody." As the game progressed, England's diplomatic momentum came to a halt, and we found him allied with Germany.

Mr. Livermore's Russia found his Austro-Hungarian invasion his downfall. England seized St. P and Mos, and Russia found himself left only with a fleet in Hel. Needless to say, he was eliminated shortly thereafter.

As the game continued, we found an Anglo-German Alliance, a rather vague Turco-Italian "Agreement", Russia eliminated, and France, though powerful, with no diplomatic alliance through no fault of his own.

In a flash, Turkey broke his pact with Italy. In a short time, Turkey overran his former ally, eliminating most of the Italian units. As the Turks were swarming up to the French border, Germany was making loud noises in the North.

With the aid of his English ally, and of his adviser Dick Miller, Germany scourged his Fatherland of French troops. He then got a stranglehold on France, and used it for a buffer state. The Turks swarmed north, and the stalwart Franco-Anglo-German alliance was giving no ground. The game was stalemated in Spring 1908. As George Grayson said, "Once Turkey has gained more than 7 units, it spreads like a cancer." Our friend Birsan was a very successful cancer.

1970BN - PRESS RELEASES

IGORIA (Unified Pascal Raising Press): Sir Osis of the Liver, and his thinning hair, Aquaspleen, is aiding BURSITIS in its near hopeless search for the infamous Leslie Bangs Tapscott. This info is provided by the Oracle of Delphi. Due to a break down in his boiler, no more clues are forthcoming. ((With thanks to Mike Willner.))

HYUDERABAD (Underground Rouch Rolling Press): Bustya, the twin sister of Pandit the Bandit, when asked by reporters from the URFP, what it was like under MJIX said 'Come again?'

ISSMEAL-GAKA (Rouch): We find our heroes looking for the truth that rules all mankind and searching for the John, so as to destroy him and set the world free from the bonds of war.

We last heard

"I HAVE FOUND OUT ABOUT IT"

"But I didn't mean to lose it. It...was...Aqualungs fault"

"It was not"

"Yes it was, and now we will never free the world from all that is bad. Oh that am I to do? My My My Oh I'm sorry CK."

"HASHA I'M SURE I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH YOU, BUT A PERSON IN YOUR GROUP HAS THE KEY IT IS YOUR MISSION TO FIND IT. THE PERSON THAT HAS THE KEY IS THE ONE AND ONLY BANGS L. TAPSCOTT. YOU MUST FIND OUT WHO IT IS. THIS WILL LEAD YOU TO THE JOHN."

"Yes CK I will find out"

"It is not me" shouted all 500 people that were with Ha sha all at once.

"GET GOING YOU'LL FIND OUT WHO IT IS SOON ENOUGH"

So ends this week's session with the CK. What will he bring us for Xmas? Wait til the very next issue of this Mag.

A CAVE IN DESERET (Rouch): Who Bangs Leslie Tapscott?

THE RIP-OFF ROLL - III

Stan Wrobel, who has recently taken over the Gamesmastership of postal Diplomacy game 1969CJ (see GRAUSTARK #250) has sent to several prominent Diplomacy players a detailed and serious indictment of Buddy Tretick's recent actions. Wrobel, publisher of The Voice, makes the following points:

1. On 4 May, Tretick published in La Guerre v. 5, #10 a roster for the game which by his private notation is LRW 1971 BB. The deadline for "Spring 1901" moves was set at 25 May, but they were in fact not published until 4 July. At that time a "Fall 1901" deadline of 19 July was set. However, these moves had still not been published by 16 Sept., at which time an issue of La Guerre appeared.

2. In September, Tretick asked Wrobel (and presumably the other players in this game) to re-submit "Fall 1901" moves as well as statements of intent to play.

3. Tretick is using a peculiar sort of dating system. The last 7 issues of La Guerre appeared on the following schedule; "*" indicates issues having to do with "LRW 1971 BB":

V. 5, #10: 4 May *

V. 5, #13: 9 Oct., but dated 6, 9, and 11 Aug.

V. 5, #11: 9 Oct., but dated 20 June

V. 5, #14: 16 Sept. *

and 11 Aug.

V. 5, #15: not yet published

V. 5, #12: 4 July *

V. 5, #16: 9 Oct. *

4. In the issue numbered "16", Tretick did not publish Wrobel's orders but instead put in someone else's. In adjudicating these moves, "the English F Nwg was stood out of Nwy by the Russian A St.P". Wrobel indicates this as an error, though on the basis of the quoted statement it is difficult to see why.

5. Wrobel and two other players have repeatedly asked Tretick for a clarification. Nothing satisfactory has been forthcoming.

This is the latest and most detailed of a long series of complaints about Buddy Tretick as a Gamesmaster. They all come down to one thing: sloppy administration by Tretick of his games. GRAUSTARK readers are accordingly cautioned about entering his games.

Not carelessness, but downright dishonesty, characterizes Larry Peery's continuing attempt to represent himself as The Diplomacy Association. TDA's actual chairman is John Beshara, Apt. 1021, 155 W. 68th St., New York, N. Y. 10023, and the \$1 membership fee should be sent to him. Peery's operation, new players should be warned, is one of a number of financially mendacious projects of his; another was his claim (now abandoned) that he was publishing postal Diplomacy game 1971BG. Players should use extreme caution in sending money to Peery, or to other Gamesmasters who have endorsed his dubious but highly original system of financial ethics. Fortunately, newcomers to postal Diplomacy should have no trouble in identifying these Gamesmasters; in every issue they proudly indicate their support of Peery's claims. They will probably continue to do so until he adds them to his list of fleeced sheep.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

"What happened to Peace and Love?"

"Peace got drafted. Love caught the clap." - Los Angeles Staff, 15 Oct. 1971

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George Grayson has announced that there will be an across-the-board Diplomacy game at his home on Sunday 19 December 1971. See p. 3 for his address and telephone number, and get in touch with him for travel directions.

*

Jim Reilly and Bob van Andel wish it known that their views have changed somewhat since they wrote the letters that appeared in #250. Reilly, who criticized the terms in which Richard Miller was attacking Rod Walker, is now more familiar with the circumstances and has apologized to Miller for his words, and condemned Walker's vendetta against John Beshara. Van Andel and I had a misunderstanding about his letter; my view being that anything not specifically labeled "Do Not Quote" may be quoted. This is a convention from science-fiction fandom that is not yet established in Diplomacy fandom. He feels that the printed opinions do not represent accurately his actual views on the matter. And I am sorry that I did not obtain van Andel's consent before printing the letter.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

A few additions and corrections are necessary in the information given on the next page. The address of Randall Garrett is 405 Chapman St., not as given. However, since he seems averse to answering letters of inquiry, westerners wishing information about the Society for Creative Anachronism might have to try elsewhere. Don Studebaker's address is given in Poul Anderson's letter, but then he doesn't write much either. Keep at it...

As for Ohio readers, they should get in touch with Miss Lee Burwasser, 3683 Severn Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44118. Lee is Herald of a small but active SCA subdivision called the Barony of the Cleft Lands.

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GRAUSTARK is the oldest bulletin of postal Diplomacy. It is published on alternate Saturdays, and is available at 8 issues for \$1.00 from John Boardman, 234 East 19th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11226. (The version "East 29th Street", which appears in a flier from Games Research Inc., is a misprint.) Game entries are available at an entry fee of \$6.00; see GRAUSTARK #252 for further details including the house rules. Back issues are available continuously from #239, and intermittently earlier; see #252 for details. Back issues are 15 issues for \$1.00.

Overseas subscriptions are invited; they cost 5 issues for \$1.00 or 12 issues for \$1.00. Overseas back issues are 15 for \$1.00 or 36 for \$1.00. Please remit only in US dollars or British pounds. Canadian players and subscribers are asked to remit in postal money orders payable in US funds if US currency is not available. Overseas readers who wish to play in GRAUSTARK games are referred to the appropriate instructions in GRAUSTARK #252.

This publication is not edited under the supervision of Bangs Leslie Tapscott.

*

"Us Italians brought culture to this country." - Frank L. Rizzo, Mayor-elect of Philadelphia, New York Times, 3 November 1971

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The revised 1971 ruler of Diplomacy may be obtained for \$1.00 a copy from Games Research Inc., 48 Wareham St., Boston, Mass. 02118, the publishers of this game. Conference maps are available from the same address at 10 for 50¢ or 25 for \$1.00.

*

John Beshara has called the Gamesmaster's attention to an interesting situation involving convoyed moves. Two instances will illustrate it. Underlined moves are not possible.

I. ENGLAND: A Edi-Hol; F Nth C A Edi-Hol; A Bel S A Edi-Hol; F Eng S F Nth.

GERMANY: F Hol-Nth; F Nwy S F Hol-Nth.

The English F Nth is attacked with one support, and itself has one support, so it is not dislodged. The moves "A Edi-Hol" and "F Hol-Nth" stand each other off. The Rulebook states that "An attack on a convoying fleet which does not dislodge it does not affect the convoy" and so A Edi-Hol must here be considered an attack on Holland from the direction of the North Sea. As such it stands off "F Hol-Nth".

II. ENGLAND: A Lon-Bel; F Eng C A Lon-Bel; F Nth S A Lon-Bel.

FRANCE: F Bel-Eng; F Bre S F Bel-Eng.

In this case, the English F Eng is attacked with one support and dislodged. It therefore cannot convoy the English army, which as a result has no effect on Belgium. "If a fleet ordered to convoy is dislodged during the move, the army to be convoyed remains in its original province and has no effect on the province to which it was ordered."

*

According to Paul Dickson's new book Think Tanks, the United States government is now anticipating 385 possible wars, with 145 of them requiring U. S. involvement. These are being designed as conceptual exercises by the army's Institute for Land Combat and by something called the Intelligence Threat Analysis Group, a fascinatingly ambiguous name. Some of these possible wars are "a war in Yugoslavia, with us, Italy, and the Yugoslavs standing off Russia, Romania, Bulgaria, and Hungary. Or a war against Russia, East Germany, and Poland fought in northern Norway...the Congo and Bolivia are also mentioned as likely war-theaters. And so is 'an Asian conflict in Taiwan with the Republic of China, the US, the Philippines and Japan fighting Communist China.'" (Harriet van Horne, New York Post, 8 November 1971) All this may lead to what Herman Kahn actually calls a "wargasm". It also leads to the conclusions that (1) Charles Manson is immeasurably the moral superior of Herman Kahn, and (2) nobody has a right to call us Diplomacy players "crazy".

COMMENTATIONES

For the past six months, GRAUSTARK readers have also been receiving PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM, a monthly bulletin published within and for, but not by or of, the Eastern Kingdom of the Society for Creative Anachronism. (Persons interested in joining this group, whose main function is to dress up in ancient costumery and show off knowledge of swordplay, court etiquette, mediaeval music, drama, and dance, or heraldry, should write to one of the following addresses which is geographically near:

Randall Garrett, 155 Chapman St., San Francisco, Calif. 94110

Elliot K. Shorter, P. O. Box 309, Jerome Avenue Station, Bronx, N. Y. 10468)

PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM, of which 7 issues have thus far appeared, is free to GRAUSTARK readers and SCA members. Back issues will be sent for a stamped, self-addressed envelope; the envelope should carry 16¢ postage if more than 4 issues are desired.

Since there is no space in PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM for a letter column, letters of comment on these issues is published below. The editor's comments are indicated in double brackets ((like this)).

DAN GOODMAN, c/o Evers, 1406 Leavenworth, San Francisco, Calif. 94109: On the return of the Dark Ages; logically, one way to escape from the new feudal yoke would be to join the sort of subculture which stayed partially or wholly outside feudalism. And there are signs that such groups are preparing themselves.

Item: free cities. Dubrovnik's city wall is being kept in an excellent state of repair; most other cities lack such defenses at the moment, but they can be constructed. Singapore is already a Free City, Hong Kong almost has that status. If the central governments were to weaken enough, the major American cities would become independent.

((Dubrovnik is better known to medieval scholars as "Ragusa".))

Item: the Counter-Culture enthusiasm for Amerind cultures. The Plains Indians, given the chance and proper organization, might play the role in North America that the nomads of the Gobi and of Arabia played in the Old World. It might be safer to ride with the Navajos against Albuquerque than to be one of the defenders.

A commune in the Rockies might be hard for the Duke of Colorado's tax collectors to reach safely; an alliance between New Communards and older mountain people might produce something similar to the Swiss cantons or the Republic of San Marino.

There are also members of the Counterculture who have taken to living on boats; they might well go in for piracy when conditions are ripe. Others are taking to a Gypsy-like existence.

I had been wondering why there'd been some movement of hippies into Alaska and northern Canada; now I know. When the time is right, they will take up (depending on just how far north they are) viking or reindeer herding.

Rough Beaset is in favor of Buckminster Fuller? Since Fuller is very much pro-technology, and favors scrapping the Wisdom of The Past, doesn't quite seem to fit their other enthusiasms. But then, there are hints in Fuller's writing that he regrets having been born too late for the great ages of piracy.

ALLAN B. CALHAMER, 501 N. Stone, La Grange Park, Ill. 60525 (1 Sept. 1971): Regarding the tartans (#III)...I once read a book devoted altogether to the tartans of Scotland, from which the following points could be extracted or deduced:

1) the tartans were assigned each to a clan only about 1800, when, to offset the effects of the Industrial Revolution, the Scotch (Scots) began to emphasize pre-Industrial traditions. Perhaps the work of Walter Scott and its popularity were also part of this movement.

2) reproductions of paintings of older chiefs indicate that they wore more than one tartan at a time. The plaid, a sort of blanket that they wore (comparable in use, but not identical to, a poncho) might be of one tartan, socks of another, etc.

((You know it, and I know it, but speak it not in Perth, and tell it not in the streets of Aberdeen.))

So far as the right to a tartan is concerned, under the Novus Ordo Seclorum it's easy: if you own the property the tartan is displayed on, you have a right to the tartan.

POUL ANDERSON, 3 Las Palomas, Orinda, Calif. 94563 (26 Sept. 1971): Tournaments Illuminated is definitely being published still, and even on a fairly regular basis. Current ad-

press (also of SCA HQ) is 90 El Camino Real, Berkeley, Calif.

((Tournaments Illuminated is a quarterly SCA journal published by Don Studebaker, whose address this is. It is \$3 per year. However, it is general experience that Studebaker is extremely sloppy with his correspondence, and anyone writing him will probably not get a reply for many weeks, if ever.))

Communications within the Society are medieval, and I agree we should try for at least a Renaissance standard. (Almost said Pony Express, but then reflected that that would be beyond the present capabilities of the US mails.)

LEE BURWASSER: We've been having an interesting discussion on the use of the royal banner. The king may, in the queen's absence, request that her throne be removed. The king's throne may not be removed, since His Majesty is present even when His Majesty is absent. Now, the royal banner is properly displayed only in the presence of His Majesty, but if His Majesty is always present even when the throne is empty, is the royal banner properly displayed over/beside/at/near the throne whether the person of the king rests there or not?

((I don't know. But this is a lot more sensible thing to argue about than whether the President has the power to invalidate private contracts. At least you stand a chance of doing something about the position of a royal banner.))

...Concerning your numerical researches, on the theory of the less said the better, saying nothing is best of all.

...Ever considered that the SCA would be the perfect cover for a Gardnerian coven? ((Witchcraft Today, by Dr. Gerald Gardner)) Everything could be explained away as re-creation/reconstruction/regeneration of a facet of medieval life as 'recorded' (oral tradition) ((chiefly under torture)) by a non-Christian segment of the population. Carrying out actual ceremonies would call for a bit of weaseling, since one would have to invoke the decadent 20th century scientific/analytic attitude & arguments. Still, it could be done. ((Yeah, but you'd have to have a good excuse for piling 13 naked people into a 9-foot circle.))

...the Times Literary Supplement...letter column has been the site of the most fascinating discussion of who the hell Dracula really was. It seems the voivodes never did keep their records straight. The question before the readership is, was Vlad Dracul the second, third, or fourth, & was he Vlad the Impaler or not?

Was he actually reincarnated in Bela Lugosi.

I don't think I'd better ask that.

((Rod Walker did a very interesting article on this topic for The Augustan a few years ago. It was entitled "Would You Rather Be Impaled Or Bitten, Or Would It Make Any Difference?"))

GARY POTTER, Rough Beast, 1522 Connecticut Ave. NW, Washington DC 20036 (29 July 1971):

Many thanks for the kind words regarding Rough Beast, for the copies of your delightful sheet, and for the plug in issue #2. ((Rough Beast was also plugged in #3 & #4.))

I think you're right, our publications are "comparable" in the sense that we seem to share some basic principles. I also agree with you that our "masters" are becoming less patient with the public's complaints, but who can blame them? Their situation is becoming desperate. "King Richard the No-hearted" (that's marvelous!) reigns over a people that haven't much heart themselves. Superficially, a people without heart might appear to be the more malleable to controls. The trouble is, without heart they are only malleable; they haven't anything to contribute to any national enterprise (be it a war, a program to save themselves from atmospheric stinks, or even an effort to keep the currency afloat). In short, they can hardly be called a people; they are merely a large conglomeration of individuals. And a king without a people is a king of what?

In other words, I do share with you your apparent belief that we're in for a bit of blood-lettering ((sic)) ("I don't care if you don't believe in what I stand for, I have the guns. Follow me, even if it's to nowhere, or you'll be shot."); but I may be more optimistic than you regarding the value of our complaining. If enough of us keep it up (mind you, it has to be done cleverly); not all will be shot. The reign of King Richard and his ilk can't last much longer, and there simply must be some men After The Fall who have ideas about politics and society besides the ones now in vogue. But I'd better stop writing in this vein, lest I begin sounding as pretentious as King Richard.

WALTER BREEN, 2 Swaim Ave., Staten Island, N. Y. 10312 (28 Nov. 1971): If Abelard's heresy consisted in his saying that he could prove anything from the writings of Avgvstinvs of Hippo, thon minds from Scotvs Eriugena to William of Occam should only applaud. Or do you propose to ordain that only the most narrow of the positions attributed to Avgvstinvs should be accepted? I assume you are thinking of a period earlier than Tommaso d'Aquino.

((Abelard was indeed most presumptuous to dispute the words of St. Augustine. Did not St. Augustine write that there could be no antipodean continent? What obstinate heresy on the part of fallible man, to set out to seek such a continent instead of relying on the words of a holy Saint!

((As for William of Occam, his heresies were obviously predicted by the Prophet Isaias, who spoke scornfully of "shaving with a hired razor".))

If you restore the Julian calendar, you will most probably insist that astrologers disregard the precession of the equinoxes and compute their charts in terms of constellations, not signs, as have some British heretics of more recent date. Or have you forgotten that one of the reasons for Pöpo Gregori's calendar reform was precisely that the Julian calendar had accumulated too much error?

((The Julian Calendar was made the official calendar of Christendom by the Nicene Council in 325, the same that proclaimed the Nicene Creed. If one deliberation of the Nicene Council be rejected, how long before men will reject the others as well? For further details on why the Julian calendar should be restored, see the January issue of PRISCVS ORDO SECLORVM.

((Though the Church opposed astrology during the last Dark Ages, she will have to come to terms with it, and it with her, during the next ones. Those who still believe in a geocentric universe are so few that they need all the mutual support they can get. And it is precisely their disregard of precession that causes astrologers to go by signs rather than by constellations. Indian astrologers, who picked up this craft from the Greeks after Hipparchos discovered precession, do go by constellations.))

The XIX year cycle for reckoning Easter is of far earlier date than the Council of Nikaia. It dates back to Meton of Alexandria ((who learned of it in Babylonia)) and has continued in use because it is the most accurate of the cycles of recurrence of solar and lunar phases, including eclipses.

Speaking of which, the most recent calculations indicate that the lunar eclipse which preceded the death of King Herod took place 37 minutes after sunset on the 15th of Adar, equated to 23 March (Julian) of B. C. 5 = A. V. C. 749, Herod dying less than one month later. But Dionysius Exiguus used insufficient source material and incorrect calculations; in particular, he was unaware of the tradition (preserved for us by Johann Kepler, but dating back to long before the Council of Nikaia) that the so-called Star of Bethlehem was not a new body at all (for doth not Aristotle say that the fixed stars remain forever in their sphere, no new bodies joining them?) but instead the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn ((and Mars)) in the constellation Pisces. This conjunction occurred 7 years before 1 A. D. or 751 A. V. C. Monks in the Dark Ages themselves would have respected a tradition so ancient.

((Most authorities, including Ginzel, Handbuch der Chronologie, concur that the eclipse mentioned by Josephus (Jewish Antiquities, XVII, 166-167) took place on 13 March, 4 BC. This was a partial eclipse, and took place on 11 Adar by the Jewish calendar. Just before mentioning it, Josephus cites a ritual pollution of the High Priest Matthias which took place on a fast day. If the fast is assumed to be the Fast of Esther (11 Adar), then either the eclipse of 4 BC or 5 BC can be made to fit. But, just because the pollution is mentioned before the eclipse doesn't mean that it happened just before the eclipse; it could have taken place at any fast day in Matthias' term including Yom Kippur. The lunar eclipses of 4 April 6 BC, 15 September 5 BC, and 10 January 1 BC are other candidates for mention by Josephus.

((Turning to other references, we find that at his death Herod had ruled Palestine in the Roman interest for 37 years, and that Rome had given him the job during the Parthian invasion of 40 BC. This would make 4 BC more reasonable than 5 BC for the year of his death. The 5 BC date would require a one-year backwards revision of most Greco-Roman chronology of this period. Op. cit., XVII, 191.))

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

((As always, the editor's comments are indicated in double brackets like this.))

DEREK NELSON, 18 Granard Blvd., Scarborough, Ontario (undated): I gather you've probably heard about the Edmund Burke Society guy Matrai who jumped on Kosygin. How did the U. S. reports describe who he was and what he belonged to.

((They described Matrai as a Hungarian emigrant, and said that the EBS was approximately equivalent to the John Birch Society in the US. This latter point, I feel, is a misnomer. The JBS is a bunch of complacent reactionaries who would rather be seen in a crash pad than in a picket line. I can picture a JBS member firing any of his employees who are seen eating in a Chinese restaurant, but I can't see one slugging Kosygin, or even William Kunstler.))

Those EBS guys are beautiful. That must have been planned. He made no attempt to hit Kosygin but rather put a bear hug on him. When they dragged him off (I was there) he spelled his name out for the media.

((Naturally.))

The next day EBS hit the headlines again with complaints he was tortured in jail (a standard left-wing claim with about as much validity).

Just before Kosygin arrived in Toronto Sunday the cops raided EBS homes, and seized a quantity of weapons, including baseball bats, bicycle chains, penknives, and a .22 rifle (that's Andrews home - I don't know about the others). They also denied entry to several reporters and cameramen at Kosygin's hotel because they were security risks (one guy was an NDP'er ((Social Democrat)) that I know of.)

The EBS is laughing all the way to the publicity they're getting.

The only mistake they made was not to claim the cops ransacked their houses and damaged many things in doing so and then terrorized members of their family. (Actually they might have made the charge, which would be only sensible since it copies left-wing tactics all the way, but it didn't make national TV. The rest did.)

Matrai was a candidate in High Park. He got 230 votes. He ran as Social Credit.

((Social Credit is a funny-money economic theory invented early in this century by an anti-Semite named Douglas. During the depression, behind a Huey Long type named Aberhart, they captured control of Alberta. Their two factions now constitute the extreme right of Canadian politics. The principal contemporary Socred is Real Caouette, a man who has expressed admiration for Adolf Hitler.))

Last summer the EBS pulled a Goldwater at the Ontario convention of the Social Credit League. They packed the riding ((constituency)) nominations for delegates and got their guys in key places of the provincial party. The Waffle (Marxist NDPers) do the same for NDP conventions.

DAN GOODMAN, c/o Evers, 1406 Leavenworth, San Francisco, Calif. 94109 (undated): The Alpajpuri bacover ((see Goodman's letter in #251)) doesn't illustrate a real game, but life as a board game. You start at birth, and at the End you go back to the womb for you next life.

...Got the book on fairy chess by Dickens (not Dickinson). It's \$2.00 from Dover.

POUL ANDERSON, 3 Las Palomas, Crinda, Calif. 94563 (14 October): I enjoyed your account of Ignobel's career ((in GRAUSTARKS ##247-249)), but you seem to have overlooked a much larger and older coup, arranged in the days of George III. The United States of America is a hoax. There never was a Revolution; a few poor fools were sent out to starve and shoot at each other, sufficient nucleus to give credibility to the later writings of kept pseudo-historians. The object at the time was to delude the French into miscalculations about the balance of power, but since then, Whitehall has found the fiction too convenient to give up. It's easy to maintain; you just buy a few politicians, writers, etc.; you go through the rigmarole of elections (wherein many candidates never even exist; it is known, for instance, that Hubert Humphrey is nothing but a computer program) and the like; foreign heads of state are mostly in on the secret and cooperate or else; the vast majority of people simply accept what they are told, and pass it on to others.

Of course, most supporters of the Establishment are synthetic too. For example, I don't mind admitting, since you can never prove it, that I myself am a randomizer in an electric typewriter, used in conjunction with a formerly starving broken-down actor named Winston P. Sanders, who'd do anything for money.

To lend artistic verisimilitude, an opposition must also be manufactured. I have dark suspicions about a certain John Boardman....

ROBERT J. WARD, Apt. 176, 8665 Florin Rd., Sacramento, Calif. 95828 (undated): Lt. Calley is the obvious fall guy. No First Lieutenant is going to undertake that kind of an operation on his own. The damn copters alone would insure word being given to higher headquarters which obviously countenanced, if not initiated the mission. If the village was in a free fire zone then the standing operational orders would have been to shoot on sight any target of opportunity. Note that the Vietnam casualty count is almost always a body count and damn seldom a prisoner count. ((The United States maintains no prisoner of war camps in Vietnam. None.)) The Americal Division has had a reputation for similar missions well before My Lai became public. I find it ironic that Calley went to full trial while the Colonels involved were dismissed as insufficient evidence to proceed. Most of the non coms I talked to when this first broke felt strongly that it was a plot to get the little guy (interesting enough very few felt that it did not occur, and none of those who had served in Nam said that it didn't happen) I suspect that the Bennings trial will bring in a guilty verdict on some lesser included offense, and that it will be overturned by the Court of Military Review. Some of the law officers' decisions seem to me to be predicated on introducing reversible error allowing the public relations value of a conviction with no risk to the defendant (except that his career is shot) (how about that for conspiracy theory of history; it will be interesting to see how it pans out.)

((Such actions are not exactly unknown in civilian courts. The following letter was written after the first part of the above prophecy came true.))

I know I promised some time ago to send a few thoughts on the Calley trial. Frankly I found it more interesting to attempt a few thoughts suggested by your reply to questions about your "Why is William L. Calley Jr. still alive?" logograph. You state that it is not necessarily true that one who opposes war must oppose capital punishment, a judgment in which I concur. ((Queen Elizabeth I once even proposed the death penalty for the fomenters of war.)) However, since this removes the "sanctity of human life" argument from the arsenal (unless of course you want to argue that the person to whom you are applying the capital punishment has shown himself non human, a dangerous ground indeed) the construction of a philosophical position is rather difficult. The one below is basically my thought, but I would be interested in knowing how closely it matches yours.

1. The basic tenet of morality must be that the wrongdoer suffer, and the innocent not suffer.

2. Any actions which further the basic tenet (#1) are moral, and action which frustrates it, immoral; any action which has no effect, varying effect, or indeterminate effect is amoral.

3. War causes the suffering of many people, some few of them wrongdoers, but most innocent of any wrongdoing related to the issues of the conflict.

3a. Since many innocent suffer war is basically immoral (#2). The basic immorality of war is its indiscriminate casualties. A amoral or even moral war is theoretically possible if casualties could be totally controlled and selectively inflicted only on those responsible for the conflict, but is practically impossible because of the state of technology.

4. Capital punishment is basically amoral. Its moral content is determined by the use to which it is put. Thus the execution of Lt. Calley (as an example) may be moral in that he is a wrongdoer duly convicted, it may also be amoral or immoral depending on the long term consequences of the execution. We can speak only of the here and now, so must assume that the majority of the evidence supports a position of moral.

4a. Capital punishment of Hitler's assassins (had the plot of 20 July 1944 succeeded) would have been immoral. The assassins would not have been guilty of any wrongdoing. In fact their action would have been moral as well.

5. The moral content of an act rests upon the perceptions of the actor. The perceptions of the community supersede those of the actor in determining his liability for punishment. That is, if Lt. Calley felt in all sincerity that My Lai was necessary military action his deed is amoral (rather than immoral); but if the community perception is that it was a massacre then he remains liable for punishment by the community ((which community?)) in order that they may carry out their perception.

This is

O At
P Great
E Intervals
R This
A Appears
T To
I Inflame
O Optic
N Nerves

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Point 5 is necessary to avoid ultimate reduction to anarchy - any one may do what he feels moral without regard to others. Point 5 protects their opinion but gives society power to control its exercise.

Since the basic position is subjective it is open to serious question, and I am not wholly satisfied with it myself, but at least in outline it does appear to allow the valid ethical shift from war to execution. I would be interested in your comments.

((Many of these same ethical questions are covered in Edward Hyams' book Killing No Murder, though he compares war to assassination rather than to capital punishment. I plan to review this book in GRAUSTARK.))

HERI JARENTS, 157 State St., Zeeland, Mich. 49464 (27 May): I really can't see your position on CAPITAL Punishment (CP). I feel that CP is just a part of the ever all picture. It is a part that needs to be cured by a means. But it lies within the Make up of Society.

Our Society is Sick, the world is sick of our society. We have got to change and fast. Many things have got to change most of them better start now. But does this call for the death of one man? I feel that Nürnberg #2 must take place but that death to them isn't what is called for but a Study of them so that We will know what to correct in the New Society.

By Study of them we might be able to tell what made them the way they are, ie regular, went home, etc. And thus Avoid it in the New Society.

I know that Calley is guilty AS All ben etc of the Armed forces. I will never fight for any centre Nor will I ASK for the life any any one person for any reason.

Does CP Really Act As a deterrent? I don't think it Acts As a very good one in the least.

((It is certainly an effective deterrent to the person to whom it is applied.))

MICHEL LIESNARD, Avenue Evariste de Meersman 43, Berchem-St. Agathe, B-1080, Bruxelles, Belgium (29 October 1971): Perhaps you could send some ideas about that war-gamer-war-lover dilemma at the University of Brussels (Solbosch, Institut de Sociologie, Departement de Polemologie, B-1050, Bruxelles, Belgique) where they are trying to study the causes of war, and how to remediate to them, psychologically, economically, etc. The only war-gamers they know there are future officers.

((Diplomacy players here represent a complete spread of the political spectrum, from pacifists like myself, devotees of Realpolitik like Derek Nelson and Rod Walker, veterans of the army and of its internal anti-war movement like Bob Ward, to fanatical anti-Communists like Bill Linden, and psychotics who love war for its own sake like Brian Libby and Michael Smolik. In my limited experience, fans of the Avalon-Hill war games are more likely to be pro-militarist in their political views, but Diplomacy takes in a wider spectrum of attitudes.))

GRAUSTARK #253

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CHRISTMAS 1971

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Derek Nelson
18 Granard Blvd.
Scarborough, Ontario
CANADA

280

"Arise, men of the
Middle Ages! The
Hundred Years' War
begins tomorrow!"

(See page 7)

